

COLUMN AND PALLET RACK PROTECTION

PROTECT-IT™

The world's most innovative rack protection system.

- Improves safety and protects your investment
- Trusted worldwide (EU, UK, USA, Can, Aus, ZA)
- Low purchase and installation costs.
- Lowest replacement cost in the market.[†]
- Securely grips the column (no separate fasteners)
- Recommend 3-4 per column (minimum).
- Effective in cold stores as low as -40 degrees.
- Passes FEM 10.2.02 frontal impact test.*
- Multiple International Design Award winner
- International patent pending (PCT) WO2005/049453 A1
- Suits column sizes from 75mm -120mm



133 Series

75-85mm Columns
133mm high



101 Series

85-106mm Columns
100mm high



102 Series

110-120mm Columns
100mm high

Protect-it™ offers exceptional performance in pallet rack protection. Warehouse rack damage is a major occupational health and safety issue. Pallet racking is not designed to be struck by fork-lifts. Even low speed collisions can lead to structural damage that is costly to repair and places workers at risk.



Photograph courtesy of Constructor Norway

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Protect-it is covered by international publication #W02005/049453 under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does Protect-it™ work?

Protect-it™ combines clever design, Computer Aided Engineering and advanced thermoplastic materials to deliver a product that can absorb large impacts and easily attach to a column without additional fasteners. Protect-it™ consists of an outer wall that is integrally moulded to a series of curved "spring like" energy absorbers at the front and sides to provide two levels of protection for columns.

- Under light to moderate impacts the outer wall deforms to resist the impact then Protect-it™ returns to its original shape.
- Under higher impacts the outer wall deflects even more, contacting the energy absorbers and delivering increased impact absorption.

This staged response makes the product flexible enough to accommodate everyday knocks and bumps yet robust enough to withstand substantial forklift impacts.

2. Is Protect-it™ cost effective?

There are three costs to consider when purchasing a column protector:

- Initial purchase cost. Protect-it™ is one of lowest priced column protectors in the world (based on a 4-high stack of Protect-it 101's on each column).
- Installation cost. Installation takes only seconds, so labour cost is negligible.
- Replacement cost. Typically much less than our competitors. You often only need to replace one damaged unit and not the whole stack of Protect-its.

3. Is column and rack protection really a big issue?

Racking systems are not designed to be struck by forklifts! Even low speed collisions can result in damage placing workers at serious risk. Modern Racking Standards require that any column vulnerable to forklift impact must be fitted with a protection device, and the Standards specify performance tests for these devices (see below). Rack damage is now recognised as a very serious issue by Occupational Health and Safety officers.

4. Does Protect-it™ meet the necessary design standards?

Protect-it™ passes the frontal impact test* specified in the European Racking Code FEM 10.2.02. This test applies an impact energy of 400Nm to the column (approx 40kg dropped from a height of 1 metre). Protect-it™ also passes the frontal impact test specified in Australian Standard AS4084. This standard states that...

"Protection devices shall resist, without exceeding the permissible stresses and without permanent deformation, a static horizontal force of 10kN (a minor impact), acting at a level of 250mm above the floor..."

If you are not covered by one of the above standards we invite you to contact us to discuss relevant standards in your country.

5. Why is the product so small?

Most impacts occur within 300mm of the floor. The small size of Protect-it™ delivers a number of benefits:

- Impact damage to protection devices typically occurs in a small area only. Protect-it's small size and stacked configuration allows damaged units to be replaced individually and far more cost effectively than large single-piece products offered by competitors.
- You can stack as many or as few Protect-it's as you like onto a column to cover the possible impact heights in your application.
- You can use a combination of colours (such as black and yellow) that are recognised as safety colours.
- Protect-it™ can go in confined spaces where competitors cannot.

6. How does Protect-it™ compare to metal column guards?

Metal column guards are normally bolted into a concrete floor. When damaging impact occurs, the concrete floor is damaged making replacement a costly labour exercise. With Protect-it™ there is virtually no labour cost to install or replace. Other metal guards bolt onto columns and offer virtually no impact absorption (front or side).

7. How does Protect-it™ compare to other plastic column guards?

Most plastic competitors use a rotational moulding process. This process only works with a limited range of materials preventing our competitors from using the best materials. Put a rotational moulded competitor product in a cold store, hit it with a hammer and see for yourself what happens!

8. Is plastic strong enough?

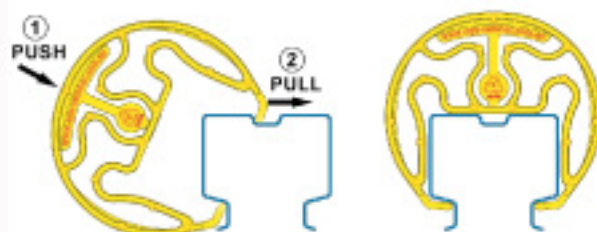
Yes! We use a super tough grade of corrosion and moisture resistant HDPE thermoplastic. This special material has a reputation throughout the world for impact strength in a wide range of extreme environments. Protect-it is also injection moulded, enabling use of much tougher plastics than our competitors.

9. Will Protect-it™ work at low temperatures?

The material was selected after intensive research and product testing in a range of environments including cold stores at -40 degrees. Protect-it™ performs in the harsh Australian summers and Northern winters.

10. Is Protect-it™ easy to fit to columns?

Protect-it™ takes just seconds to install by hand. The design incorporates an ingenious spring clip design that enables Protect-it™ to securely grip the column and automatically adjust its width to suit a wide range of column sizes. All other competitor products require an additional attachment system like Velcro, bolts, concrete penetration or additional parts that are prone to breakage.



11. Will I need to regularly replace Protect-it™ column guards?

Impact protection devices must deform in order to absorb impact energy. For light to medium impacts this deformation is reversible and the device returns to its original state once the load is removed. In more serious impacts a well designed protection device may deform irreversibly or fracture – this is an effective way to absorb more energy and minimise rack damage. No column protection device will withstand a severe impact. Protect-it™ is designed to meet the frontal impact requirements of the Australian and European racking Standards. We recommend regular inspections and immediate replacement if permanent deformation or breakage is observed after an impact. The frequency of replacement will depend on your forklift drivers – always encourage them to drive responsibly!

12. What about safety inspections?

Protect-it™ takes just seconds to remove and re-install, allowing safety inspectors to conduct fast and effective visual inspections.

13. Will Protect-it™ be compatible with my racking system?

Protect-it™ fits most rack systems including Brownbuilt, Colby, Dexion Keylock, Link 51, Schaefer, Constructor Speedlock P90, Spacerack, Stow, Tori, Universal, Interlake, Mecalux, as well as 3x3" and 3x1-5/8" columns. Please visit our website for a complete description of the entire Protect-it range. The website includes a detailed product selection and compatibility chart that is regularly updated. If you find your column does not appear on our compatibility chart, please contact us and we'll endeavour to meet your requirements.

14. How can I place an order?

Contact your local distributor or refer to our website www.eye-catcher.com.au for the latest product and sales information.

www.iws-handling.com

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